

REMARKS

Claims 2-25 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 2 has been amended.

In the Advisory Action dated April 20, 2005, the Examiner provides arguments as to why Stamper et al meets the limitations of the claims. The Examiner concludes with the comment that “while the Examiner agrees that Stamper discloses a single processor, nothing in Applicant’s claims clearly state that there are two processors and given the broad interpretation of Applicants’ claims Stamper does read on them.”

This comment is in error, as the claims clearly include limitations that distinguish over Stamper, particularly given the Examiner’s admission that Stamper discloses only a single processor. Specifically, in claim 2, the distribution device has a function of distributing mastery information. That distribution is according to mastery status information obtained from a terminal apparatus. Such function can only be accomplished by intelligence located at the distribution device. Similarly, the terminal apparatus of claim 2 is expressly defined as having a “game execution function.” Clearly, this is a function based on intelligence located at the terminal device, particularly since it relates to multiple stages. The two devices are separate and necessarily would have separate intelligence. Stamper does not have such feature, as it does not have separately intelligent apparatus for distributing and for executing a multi-level game. This same argument would apply to independent claims 4, 17, 18, 23 and 24.

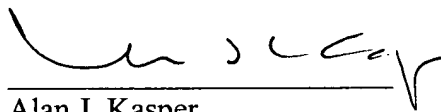
Applicant does not believe it is necessary to recite the existence of separate processors in any of the claims for the foregoing reasons. Nonetheless, with respect to claim 2, Applicant has amended the claim to recite the existence of two processors. With respect to claim 4, it has additional limitations that clearly further distinguish over Stamper. Similar reasons apply to the remaining claims.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/919,807

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan J. Kasper
Registration No. 25,426

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 26, 2005